

## A STUDENT WORK STATION

### BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

This invention relates to a student work station that maximizes reachable work and storage surfaces available to the student. The work station is designed for easy access and particularly advantageous for disabled students confined to a wheelchair.

Alternative technology is available in the form of an adaptive work station in accordance with U.S. Patent No. 4,894,600, which has a work table top in truncated U-shape with electronically controlled height adjustable legs which allow a disabled person to utilize the station while sitting in a wheelchair. Another table in accordance with U.S. Patent No. 4,679,509 is designed for ease of use by the occupant of a wheelchair which has a shaped, cut-back, front edge enabling the user to have greater access to the working surface. U.S. Patent Nos. 1,293,952 and 5,865,125 teach other truncated U-shaped desks. For most students and particularly disabled students, these prior art inventions fail to achieve their primary objective of greater access to the working surface.

To alleviate this problem, and others which will become apparent from the disclosure which follows, the student work station of the present invention conveniently provides an elevated desk with a horizontal work surface, a storage surface disposed at a spaced distance beneath the work surface, and a transparent peripheral wall that is disposed between the work surface and the storage surface. The student work station of this important invention has a circular shape and an entryway for a wheeled chair, such as a wheelchair or a chair on rollers. The student can rotate on a chair to face a plurality of equally accessible work and storage surface portions. For wheelchair applications, the

storage shelf is cut back so that student can rotate in the wheelchair. The structural arrangement of the desk surfaces provides uniformly reachable work and storage surfaces to the student regardless of disability.

5 Additionally, since a transparent peripheral wall that is used as a safety feature, anything stored on the storage surface will be visible to a teacher or others students.

The citation of the foregoing publications is not an admission that any particular publication constitutes prior art, or that any publication alone or in conjunction with others, renders unpatentable any pending claim of the present application. None of the cited publications is believed to detract from the patentability of the claimed invention.

#### 10 ADVANTAGES OF THE INVENTION

It is an object of the student work station of the present invention to provide a student desk that maximizes the reachable work surface available to the student.

It is an object of the student work station of the present invention to provide a student desk that maximizes the reachable storage surface available to the student.

15 It is another object of the student work station of the present invention to a work station that is designed for easy student access, particularly for a disabled student confined to a wheelchair.

Another object of the student work station of the present invention is to present a safe desk - one where anything stored on the storage surface will be visible to a teacher or others students.

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It is yet another object of the student work station of the present invention to provide a work station that is a moveable assemblage.

Still other advantages will be apparent from the disclosure that follows.

### SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

5 The invention relates to a student work station comprising an elevated desk, having means for supporting the elevated desk, with a horizontal work surface, a storage surface disposed at a spaced distance beneath the work surface, and a peripheral wall. The peripheral wall is disposed between the work surface and the storage surface. The peripheral wall is transparent so that anything stored on the storage surface is visible to a teacher or others.

10 Additionally, to provide greater security to teachers and other students, the work surface can be transparent as well.

15 Preferably, the work surface is in a shape of a first circular ring sector and the storage surface is in a shape of a second circular ring sector and each of the first circular ring sector and the second circular ring sector have a first terminal edge and a second terminal edge, said edges defining an entryway.

20 There has thus been outlined, rather broadly, the more important features of the invention in order that the detailed description thereof that follows may be better understood, and in order that the present contribution to the art may be better appreciated. There are, of course, additional features of the invention that will be described hereinafter and which will form the subject matter of the claims appended hereto. Those skilled in

the art will appreciate that the conception upon which this disclosure is based, may readily be utilized as a basis for the designing of other structures, methods and systems for carrying out the several purposes of the present invention. It is important, therefore, that the claims be regarded as including such equivalent constructions insofar as they do not depart from the spirit and scope of the present invention.

#### BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWING

Preferred embodiments of the invention are described hereinafter with reference to the accompanying drawing wherein:

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of a first preferred embodiment of the student work station of the present invention showing particularly the transparent peripheral wall and a base, which supports the means for supporting the elevated desk and a rotatable centrally located chair, having an outer periphery, a predetermined thickness, and an incline disposed in line with an entryway.

Fig. 2 is a cross-sectional view taken along the line 2-2 of Fig. 1, showing particularly the base resting on the floor and the incline of the base of the first preferred embodiment of the student work station of the present invention.

Fig. 3 is a perspective view of a second preferred embodiment of the student work station of the present invention showing particularly a transparent work surface and peripheral wall, and an entryway suitably sized to accommodate a wheeled chair which can be rotated while positioned centrally in the desk.

Fig. 4 is a cross-sectional view of the second preferred embodiment of the student work station taken along the line 4-4 of Fig. 3.

Fig. 5 is a perspective view of a third preferred embodiment of the student work station of the present invention showing particularly a storage surface having an interior peripheral edge with a radius of curvature which is larger by a predetermined amount than a radius of curvature of an inner peripheral edge of the work surface to allow additional room for the arms of a wheelchair as it is rotated therein.

Fig. 6 is a cross-sectional view of the third preferred embodiment of the student work station taken along the line 6-6 of Fig. 5.

#### DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

The preferred embodiments depicted in the drawing comprise a student work station that maximizes reachable work and storage surfaces available to the student. The work station is designed for easy access and particularly advantageous for disabled students confined to a wheelchair. It has a transparent peripheral wall that is used as a safety feature, since anything stored on the storage surface will be visible to a teacher or other students. A transparent work surface may also be employed. A base can be provided to support means for supporting the elevated desk and a rotatable centrally located chair. The base rests on the floor.

Means for supporting an elevated desk may include any number of known arrangements including a conical support with an opening to coincide with an entryway, any number of support legs with at least three support legs being preferred.

Additionally, a storage surface having an interior peripheral edge with a radius of curvature which is larger by a predetermined amount than a radius of curvature of an inner peripheral edge of the work surface may be employed to allow additional room for the arms of a wheelchair as it is rotated therein.

5 Without departing from the generality of the invention disclosed herein and without limiting the scope of the invention, the discussion that follows, will refer to the invention as depicted in the drawing.

10 The preferred embodiments of the apparatus depicted in the drawing comprise a student work station 1 comprising an elevated desk 2 with a horizontal work surface 3, a storage surface 4 disposed at a spaced distance beneath the work surface, and a peripheral wall 5.

15 The peripheral wall 5 is disposed between the work surface 3 and the storage surface 4. The peripheral wall is transparent so that anything stored on the storage surface is visible to a teacher or others. The elevated desk has means for supporting the elevated desk which preferably has at least three support legs 6.

Preferably, the peripheral wall extends from the work surface to the storage surface.

20 In another preferred aspect of the student work station, the work surface 3 has an outer peripheral edge 3a, the storage surface 4 has an exterior peripheral edge 4a, and the peripheral wall 5 extends from the outer peripheral edge 3a of the work surface 3 to the exterior peripheral edge 4a of the storage surface 4. Moreover, the outer peripheral edge

of the work surface can lie directly above the exterior peripheral edge of the storage surface and the peripheral wall can be vertically disposed, as shown in Figs. 1-4.

Additionally, to provide greater security to teachers and other students, the work surface 3 can be transparent as well.

5 In a preferred embodiment of the student work station, as shown in the drawing, the work surface 3 is in a shape of a first circular ring sector and the storage surface 4 is in a shape of a second circular ring sector and each of the first circular ring sector and the second circular ring sector have a first terminal edge 11 and a second terminal edge 12, the first terminal edge and the second terminal edge of each of the work surface and the storage surface defining an entryway 7.

As shown in the drawing, the entryway 7 may be uniform in width, as for example, the first terminal edge 11 of each of the first circular ring sector and the second circular ring sector can be parallel and the second terminal edge 12 of each of the first circular ring sector and the second circular ring sector are parallel.

15 Referring to Fig. 5, the entryway 7 may be outwardly expanding, as for example, the first terminal edge 11 of each of the first circular ring sector and the second circular ring sector lie in a first vertical plane and the second terminal edge 12 of each of the first circular ring sector and the second circular ring sector lie in a second distinct vertical plane. The first terminal edge and the second terminal edge can be parallel or diverge outwardly.

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As shown in Figs. 1 and 2, the preferred aspects of the student work station can include a base 8 which supports the means for supporting the elevated desk. The base may have an outer periphery 8a and a predetermined thickness.

The outer periphery 8a may further have a circular shape and an incline 9 disposed in line with the entryway 7.

In another preferred embodiment, the student work station 1 comprises an elevated desk 2 with a work surface 3, a storage surface 4 disposed at a spaced distance beneath the work surface, and a peripheral wall 5. The work surface has an outer peripheral edge 3a and a shape of a first circular ring sector. The storage surface has an exterior peripheral edge 4a and a shape of a second circular ring sector. Each of the first circular ring sector and the second circular ring sector has a first terminal edge 11 and a second terminal edge 12. The first terminal edge and the second terminal edge of each of the work surface and the storage surface define an entryway 7, and the peripheral wall 5 extends from the outer peripheral edge 3a of the work surface to the exterior peripheral edge 4a of the storage surface and is transparent, so that anything stored on the storage surface is visible through the peripheral wall 5. Additionally, the elevated desk has at least three support legs 6.

This student work station may further include a base 8, which supports the at least three support legs, has an outer periphery 8a and a predetermined thickness. Furthermore, the outer periphery 8a may have a circular shape and an incline 9 disposed in line with the entryway 7. In this way, a wheeled chair (as shown in Figs 4 and 6) can be rolled over the



incline 9 of Figs. 1 and 2, onto the base 8, through the entryway 7 and disposed within a central opening 10 of the first and second ring sectors.

Moreover, the student work station may further comprise a chair 13 with a swivel seat disposed within a concentric opening 10a of the first and second ring sectors. The work surface 3 may also be transparent, as shown in Fig. 3.

Another preferred embodiment of the student work station comprises an elevated desk with at least three support legs, a work surface, a storage surface disposed at a spaced distance beneath the work surface, and a peripheral wall. The work surface 3 has an outer peripheral edge 3a, an inner peripheral edge 3b, and a shape of a first circular ring sector. The storage surface 4 has an exterior peripheral edge 4a, an interior peripheral edge 4b, and a shape of a second circular ring sector. The first circular ring sector and the second circular ring sector are concentric.

The interior peripheral edge 4b has a radius of curvature which is larger by a predetermined amount than a radius of curvature of the inner peripheral edge 3b of the work surface, as shown in Fig. 5, to allow additional room for the use of a wheelchair. Each of the first circular ring sector and the second circular ring sector has a first terminal edge 11 and a second terminal edge 12. The first terminal edge and the second terminal edge of each of the work surface and the storage surface defining an entryway; and the peripheral wall extending from the outer peripheral edge 3a of the work surface to the exterior peripheral edge 4a of the storage surface and is transparent so that anything stored on the storage surface is visible through the peripheral wall 5. Thus, a wheelchair with arms at a height of the storage surface can be rolled through the entryway and can be

disposed within a central opening 10 of the first and second ring sectors of the elevated desk and freely rotatable therein independent of obstruction of the arms of the wheelchair or the legs of the student by the storage surface .

Moreover, to better accommodate the wheelchair and the student therein, each of the at least three support legs 6 of the student work station 1 can be disposed proximate to both the outer peripheral edge 3a and the exterior peripheral edge 4a of the desk, as shown in Fig. 5.

While this invention has been described in connection with the best mode presently contemplated by the inventor for carrying out his invention, the preferred embodiments described and shown are for purposes of illustration only, and are not to be construed as constituting any limitations of the invention. Modifications will be obvious to those skilled in the art, and all modifications that do not depart from the spirit of the invention are intended to be included within the scope of the appended claims. Those skilled in the art will appreciate that the conception upon which this disclosure is base, may readily be utilized as a basis for the designing of other structures, methods and systems for carrying out the several purposes of the present invention. It is important, therefore, that the claims be regarded as including such equivalent constructions insofar as they do not depart from the spirit and scop of the present invention.

My invention resides not in any one of these features per se, but rather in the particular combinations of some or all of them herein disclosed and claimed and it is distinguished from the prior art in these particular combinations of some or all of its structures for the functions specified.

With respect to the above description then, it is to be realized that the optimum dimensional relationships for the parts of the invention, to include variations in size, materials, shape, form, function and manner of operation, assembly and use, are deemed readily apparent and obvious to one skilled in the art, and all equivalent relationships to those illustrated in the drawings and described in the specification are intended to be encompassed by the present invention.

Therefore, the foregoing is considered as illustrative only of the principles of the invention. Further, since numerous modifications and changes will readily occur to those skilled in the art, it is not desired to limit the invention to the exact construction and operation shown and described, and accordingly, all suitable modifications and equivalents may be resorted to, falling within the scope of the invention.